



Dungeness River Management Team

Cooperative Management of Our Watershed's Resources

Coordinated by Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe and Clallam County
1033 Old Blyn Highway • Sequim, WA 98382 • (360) 683-1109

April 22, 2013

Sen. Jim Hargrove
P.O. Box 40424
Olympia, WA 98504

Re: DRMT Capital Budget Support – *Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR)*

Dear Senator Hargrove,

The Dungeness River Management Team (DRMT) urges you to approve full funding of the 2013 *Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR)* capital budget request. As you know, North Olympic salmon stocks are greatly diminished from what their numbers were previously, and there are now four ESA-threatened salmon species in the Dungeness River watershed. Over the past twenty-five years a number of DRMT members have partnered on projects to benefit not only salmon, but human safety and quality of life in the Dungeness valley. We'd very much like to continue this work.

Three of the eight projects proposed within our legislative district are within the DRMT focus area. These are the Dungeness River Floodplain Restoration Design, the Dungeness River In-stream Flow Restoration, and the Dungeness River Large Wood Restoration. Respectively, these projects would enable significant progress on our top priority project to restore the lower river floodplain, complement the recently adopted instream flow rule by conserving water and preserving flows in the River, and restore in-stream Dungeness habitat through placement of large wood.

Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration funding has proven an invaluable tool in our area for advancing Puget Sound Recovery. Since 2007, PSAR dollars have supported local actions to recover the lower Dungeness River floodplain, create log jams in the Elwha to maximize restoration, and remove undersized culverts in Washington Harbor, to name but a few. The current PSAR proposals will continue the multiple environmental and economic benefits to Puget Sound, boosting the economy by creating jobs for construction crews, heavy equipment operators, engineers, biologists, planners, surveyors, and others.

PSAR projects are well-vetted, and structured to fund properly sequenced and high priority restoration. This PSAR proposal, in tandem with the *Coordinated Investment for Puget Sound Floodplains*, will advance the clean-up of Puget Sound area waters and help ensure that salmon continue to be a part of the way of life here for all.

On behalf of the Dungeness River Management Team, thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Scott Chitwood
Chair, Dungeness River Management Team

Cc: Representative Kevin Van De Wege, Representative Steve Tharinger, Representative Hans Dunshee, Senator Jim Honeyford, Senator Andy Hill, Keith Phillips, Cheryl Baumann